

STAR BLAZER

FANTASY FICTION IN
PICTURES No 171 24p



STAR KNIGHT

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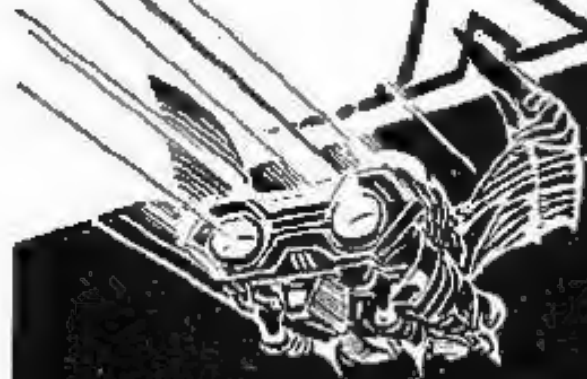


FANTASY FICTION IN PICTURES

Released from a million year imprisonment, the most evil being in the galaxy unleashed
sons of hate and
unimaginable fury on the race
he blamed—the inhabitants of
Earth.
But he had to pit his evil skills
against Earth's
troubleshooter — STAR
KNIGHT.

STAR KNIGHT

THE SKELETON OF A LONG DEAD SPACE DINOSAUR
WAS HOME TO A DYING RACE, THE SYRANS. THE TIME
WAS THAT WHEN EARTH WAS BORN.



SYRANS LIVED BY ABSORBING NEUTRINOS FROM THEIR SUN. AS IT WAS DYING SO WERE THEY. RORTA, LEADER OF THE SYRAN MILITIA, SAW HIS CHANCE TO DEFEAT THE PEACE-MINDED COUNCIL LED BY TORQUE.

WE MUST SURVIVE AT THE EXPENSE OF OUR PEACEFUL TRADITIONS! WE MUST SEND OUT A FLEET TO CONQUER A PLANET.

NO! OUR TECHNOLOGY WILL HOLD OUR RACE IN SUSPENSION UNTIL THE TIME COMES FOR US TO RISE AGAIN.



SENDING A FLEET WOULD USE THE LAST OF OUR ENERGIES! FAILURE TO FIND A NEW HOME WOULD END OUR RACE. BY PRESERVING OURSELVES WE WAIT TO BE RESCUED BY A FUTURE INTELLIGENCE.



RORTA REFUSED TO ACCEPT TORQUE'S DECISION,
AND LASHED OUT WITH NEUTRON BOLTS.

GUARDS, TAKE HIM!

DIE FOR
YOUR WEAKNESS!



RORTA HAD TO USE HIS POWER TO SHIELD HIM FROM THE GUARDS' ATTACK.

SEE HOW YOUR EVIL WAYS
DEFEAT YOU, RORTA!



THE TWO DEAD COUNCIL MEMBERS WERE REMOVED,
AND TORQUE PASSED IMMEDIATE JUDGEMENT.

I FIND YOU GUILTY OF TREASON,
RORTA, FOR WHICH THE
PUNISHMENT IS DEATH . . .

FOOL! I AM A WARRIOR. DEATH
IS NO PUNISHMENT!

AND FOR THAT REASON I CHOOSE
A DIFFERENT SENTENCE FOR
YOU, RORTA.

TORQUE POINTED TO A SYRAN PRESERVATION CAPSULE BROUGHT IN BY THE GUARDS.

IN THAT YOU
WILL REMAIN.

RORTA WAS IMPRISONED IN THE CAPSULE.

YOU WILL BE BANISHED TO THE DARK
SIDE OF SYRAS, AWAY FROM OUR PEOPLE.




THE DARK SIDE WAS UNINHABITED BY SYRANS, AND
HERE RORTA WAS TO REMAIN ETERNALLY PRESERVED.



TORQUE WAS THE LAST SYRAN
TO ENTER A CAPSULE.



A MILLION YEARS PASSED. SYRAS, VICTIM OF METEOR SHOWERS AND TIME, BECAME A CRUMBLING WRECK UNTIL A TERRAN CRAFT DISCOVERED IT. A HUMAN ARCHEOTEAM BEGAN REMOVING REMAINS OF THE SYRAN EMPIRE TO A SAFER PLACE.



THAT'S THE LAST LOAD, MISTER HOOL. SEE YOU BACK AT SUBSTATION 602.

AFFIRMATIVE, CAPTAIN. JUST AS SOON AS I PICK UP ARCHEOTECH KURNIK.

ARCHEOTECH HOOL WENT DOWN THE GRAVCOIL,
HOPING IT WAS FOR THE LAST TIME.



I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF BONEBUST
TO LAST A LIFETIME.

HOOL OPERATED A GRAVWHEEL, STANDARD TRANSPORT FOR DIFFICULT TERRAIN.



HOOL TO KURNIK, I'M
COMING IN TO COLLECT YOU.

HOME IN ON MY BEACON SIGNAL, HOOL.
I'VE FOUND SOMETHING INTERESTING.

KURNIK HAD BEEN EXPLORING SYRAS'S DARK SIDE.



IF MY SYRAN HEIROGLYPHS
TRANSLATION IS ACCURATE, THIS
IS THE PRISON OF RORTA.
WHOEVER HE WAS!

BUT AS THE NEUTRON SCANNER PROBED DEEPER . . .

AN ENERGY SOURCE GIVES
ME LIFE AGAIN!

THE NEUTRON RAY IS REVIVING
HIM! I MUST REMOVE IT!

THE SPACEMAN'S TRANSLATOR
PACK BURST INTO ACTION.

RORTA ABSORBED THE TOTAL POWER OF THE SCANNER, CAUSING IT TO SHORT-CIRCUIT.

MY STRENGTH RETURNS!

UGH!

NOT REALISING THE DANGER, HOOL TENDED TO THE DAZED KURNIK.

**DON'T WORRY, KURNIK!
YOU'RE ONLY
CONCUSSED.**

GET AWAY ...

WITH ENOUGH POWER TO LEAVE HIS PRISON, RORTA SOUGHT HIS FIRST VICTIM.

**YOUR PUNY MIND IS NO MATCH
FOR MY TELEPATHIC ENERGY!
FEEL YOUR MIND BECOME
MINE!**

MY HEAD ... BURNING!

ALTHOUGH UNDER RORTA'S MENTAL CONTROL, HOOL WAS ABLE TO THINK SUB-CONSCIOUSLY.

**YOU ARE MY SLAVE. YOU WILL
HELP ME DEFEAT YOUR KIND!**

**MY MIND CAN'T COMMAND MY BODY. HE
HAS COMPLETE CONTROL OF MY
PHYSICAL ACTIONS!**

SECURITY FOR THE ARCHEOTEAM WAS PROVIDED BY STAR KNIGHT LI OPURNEY, WHO AT THAT MOMENT WAS PATROLLING OUTSIDE.

ATTENTION . . . NEUTRON
EXPLOSION DETECTED.
UNIDENTIFIED ENERGY OUTPUT
ALSO DETECTED.

THANK YOU, HORDROID. THE
ARCHEOTEAM ARE IN TROUBLE. LET'S
INVESTIGATE.

HORDROID WAS THE STAR KNIGHT'S MOBILE RECORDING COMPUTER — HIS TIME MOUNT.

INSIDE—



**SITUATION EVALUATION: HOOL
TAKEN HOSTAGE BY ALIEN
FORCE, DANGER LEVEL FOUR.**

**OUT OF MY WAY
HUMAN!**

STAR KNIGHT'S STANDARD TRANSLATOR PACK IMMEDIATELY TRANSLATED THE ALIEN LANGUAGE.

STAR KNIGHT COULDN'T ATTACK RORTA WITH A HOSTAGE, BUT RORTA COULD ATTACK STAR KNIGHT!

**NEUTRON BOLT APPROACHING,
DANGER LEVEL NINE.**

LAS-SHIELD ... ACTIVATE!



THE SHIELD WAS A SELF OPERATING DEFENCE MECHANISM OF
SPINNING, REFLECTIVE DISCS—

OPERATIVE: INTERCEPTING
NEUTRON BEAM AT 48 DEGREES.



THE SHIELD DEFLECTED THE BOLT—

THAT ARCH IS GOING
TO FALL ON KURNIK!

THE ARCH
I CAN'T MOVE IN TIME!



STAR NIGHT ACTIVATED
HIS LASER LANCE.

INTERCEPTION IMMEDIATE!

THE BONE SHATTERED INTO A MILLION PIECES.

TARGET DESTROYED!



BUT RORTA HAD TIME TO ESCAPE.

JUMP ON THE BACK!

WE'LL BE STRANDED IF RORTA
TAKES THE ARCHEOSHIP.



MOMENTS LATER...

TOO LATE!

THE MORDROID DOESN'T HAVE THE
RANGE FOR INTERSTELLAR TRAVEL.
WE'RE TRAPPED HERE.

STAR KNIGHT FIRED A LASER MESSAGE TO THE NEAREST BASE, SUBSTATION 602.

I'VE SENT A WARNING ABOUT
RORTA AND A RESCUE REQUEST.
BUT BY THE TIME THE RESCUE
TEAM GET HERE OUR LIFE
SUPPORTS WILL HAVE FAILED.

I'VE AN IDEA OF HOW WE
CAN IMPROVE THE ODDS.

ABOARD THE ARCHEOSHIP, RORTA ABSORBED THE COMPUTER'S KNOWLEDGE WITHIN MOMENTS.

MAN'S TECHNOLOGY IS MORE ADVANCED THAN SYRAN, BUT MY SUPERIOR BRAIN WILL ENABLE ME TO USE IT TO MY ADVANTAGE.

RORTA STUDIED EVERY BATTLECRRAFT MADE BY MAN.

... NOVASTAR CLASS CRUISER, ENERGY LEVEL 0 ... 1 ...

NONE OF THESE CRAFT HAS THE POWER I WANT. I MUST LOOK ELSEWHERE.

RORTA FOUND HIS WEAPON IN THE MINING SECTION ...

JADIS GRAVITON, DENSITRAX MINING SHIP. FIRES NULLGRAV BEAM CAUSING PLANETS TO DISSOLVE. FIRST TESTING DUE IN FIVE TIME UNITS. TARGET: MOON ADORFIS.

THAT'S IT! WITH THAT POWER I COULD RULE THE UNIVERSE.

RORTA GAVE HOOL, NOW UNDER HIS POWER, NEW COMMANDS.

YOU WILL TAKE ME TO THE MOON
CALLED ADORFIS. I AM GOING TO
STEAL THIS GRAVITON.

WHEN THE GRAVITON IS MINE I WILL
DESTROY THE PLANET OF ITS
ORIGIN — EARTH!

I CAN'T HELP MYSELF... AND I'M
HELPING HIM TO DESTROY MY
OWN RACE!

BACK AT SYRAS, KURNIK SHOWED STAR KNIGHT SOMETHING THAT WOULD INCREASE THEIR SURVIVAL CHANCES.



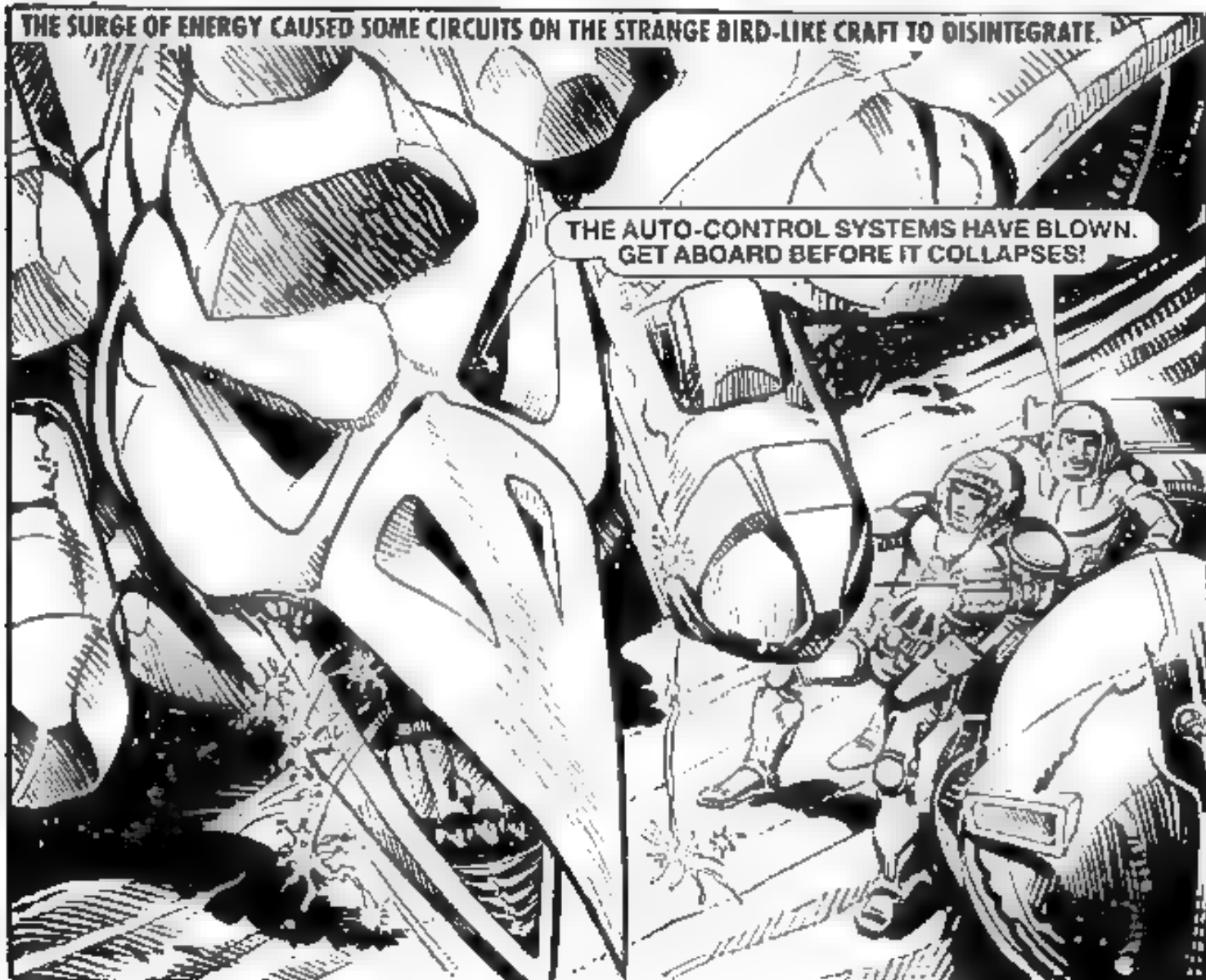
IT'S AN OLD SYRAN ORNOCRAFT —
RUNS ON STARLIGHT.

ALL WE NEED DO
IS FLY IT.

KURNIK HAD STUDIED THE ORNOCRAFT ON SUBSTATION
602, WHERE THE SYRAN ARTIFACTS HAD BEEN TAKEN.

THOSE ARE POWER TERMINALS!
THE WINGS COLLECT SOLAR
ENERGY AND CONVERT IT
THROUGH THOSE TERMINALS INTO
GAMMA PULSES WHICH DRIVE IT
FORWARD.

IT'S GOING TO NEED AN ENERGY
INPUT IF IT'S TO FLY OUT OF HERE.





WE'VE ONLY A FEW MOMENTS
BEFORE IT FALLS!

HORDROID — VAPORISE
THE DOOR!

A GAMMA CHARGE CAUSED THE DOOR TO DISSOLVE.



THE CONTROLS ARE STANDARD —
I'VE GOT TO MAKE IT FLY!

STAR KNIGHT LEAPT TO THE CONTROLS.

FLY!

THE ORNOCRAFT'S DRIVE THUNDERED INTO LIFE.

IT'S UP! IF WE CAN GET IT
SPACESIDE IT WILL RUN ON
STARPOWER!

OUTSIDE, THE ORNOCRAFT SLOWLY REACHED
ITS FULLY CAPACITY.

THESE INSTRUMENTS ARE USELESS!
HORDROID WILL ACT AS NAVIGATOR.

THE TIME BETWEEN OUR PICK-UP BY THE
RESCUE SHIP AND OUR LIFE SUPPORTS FAILING
WILL BE REDUCED! BUT WE STILL MIGHT NOT
MAKE IT!

LIGHT YEARS AWAY FROM SYRAS, THE JADIS GRAVITON WAS ABOUT TO MAKE ITS FIRST TEST FIRING.

ADORFIS MOON NOW WITHIN FOURTEEN TRILOMETRES, GRAVITON FULLY CHARGED.

CAPTAIN, WE HAVE A PRIORITY ONE ON THE LINE.

THE MESSAGE CAME FROM SUBSTATION 602.

COMMANDER WARD OF 602, TO CAPTAIN JORDAN OF THE GRAVITON...

PROCEED, COMMANDER WARD.

COMMANDER WARD WAS RELAYING
STAR KNIGHT'S MESSAGE.

WE'VE REASON TO BELIEVE A
DANGEROUS ALIEN BEING IS
ACTIVE IN YOUR QUADRANT. I
ADVISE YOU TO ABORT THE
TESTING AND ...

NEVER!

THE GRAVITON IS
DENSITRAX PLATED!
THERE'S NOT A
FORCE INVENTED
THAT I CAN'T
DESTROY.

THAT MAY NOT BE THE
ALIEN'S INTENTION.

CAPTAIN JORDAN CUT THE VIDSREEN BEFORE
COMMANDER WARD COULD CONTINUE ...

I'VE WAITED YEARS FOR THIS
MOMENT, I'M NOT STOPPING
NOW. BEGIN FIRING
SEQUENCE.

FIRING SEQUENCE INITIATED,
COUNTDOWN OPERATIVE.

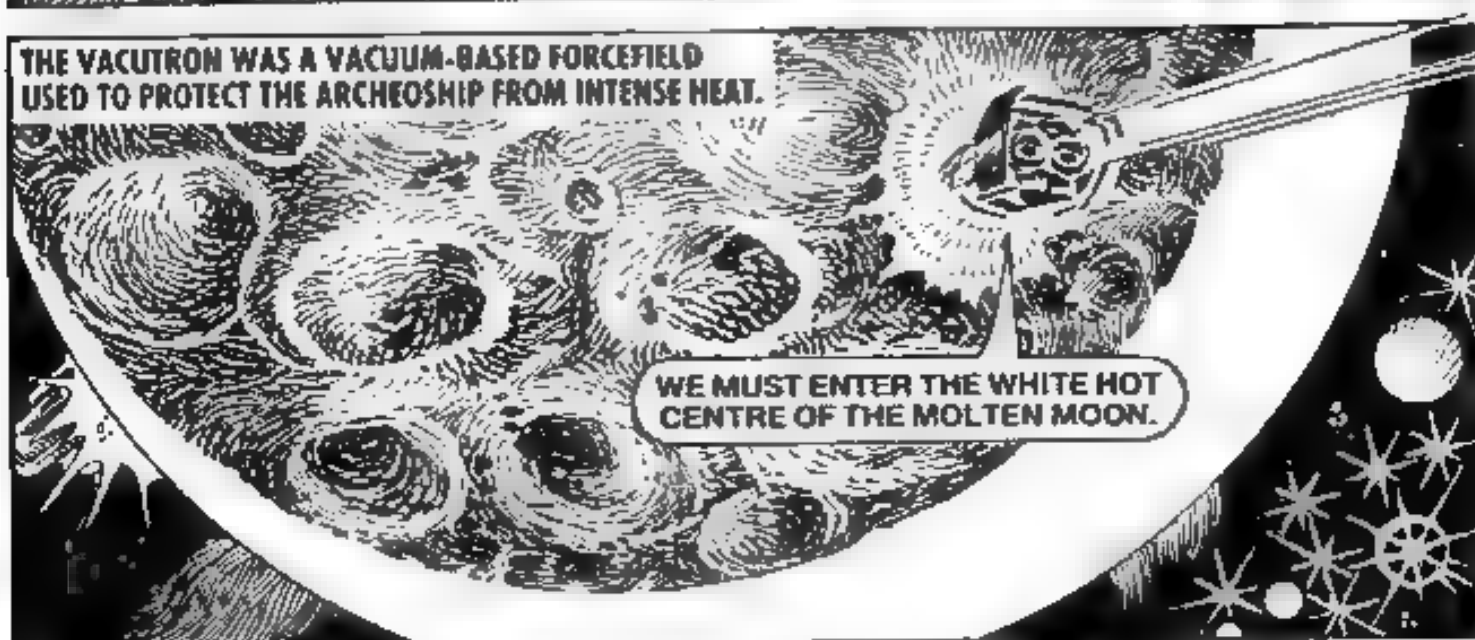
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WITH ALL ATTENTION ON THE TEST FIRING, THE GRAVITON CREW DIDN'T NOTICE THE ARCHEOSHIP APPROACHING FROM THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF ADORFIS.



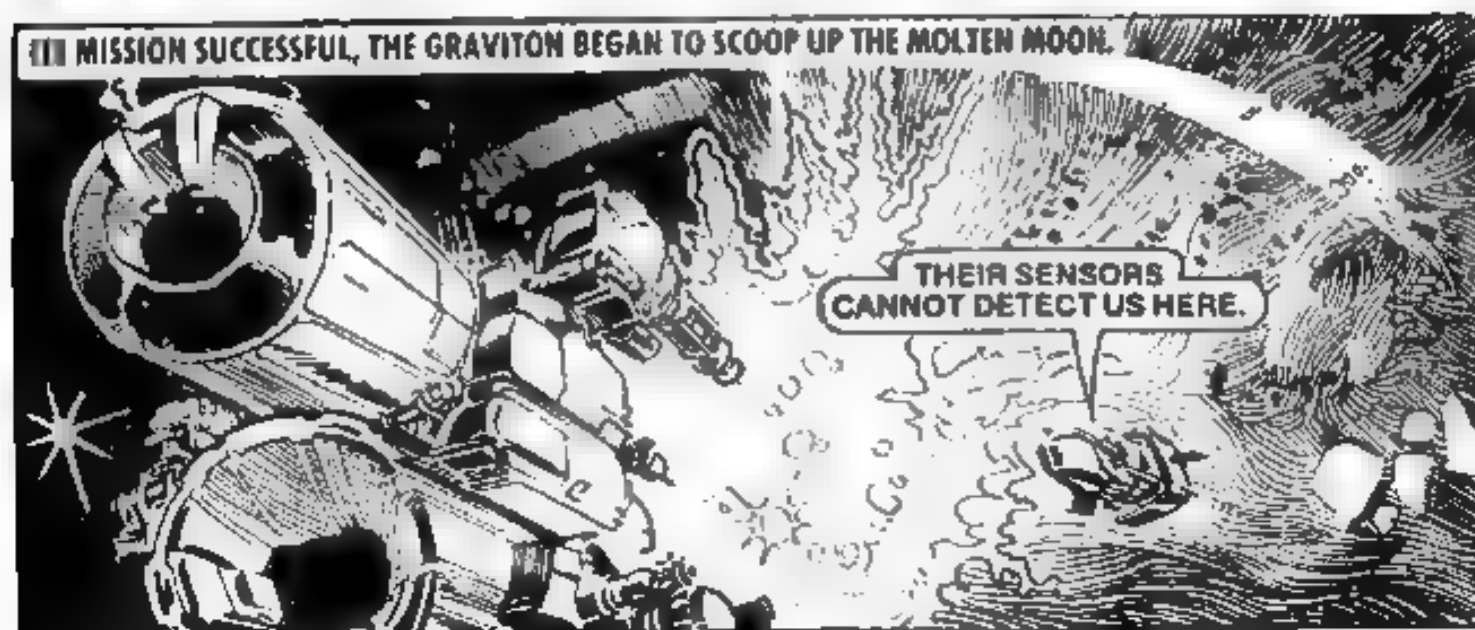
OUR ARRIVAL IS WELL TIMED.
ACTIVATE THE VACUTRON!

THE VACUTRON WAS A VACUUM-BASED FORCEFIELD USED TO PROTECT THE ARCHEOSHIP FROM INTENSE HEAT.



WE MUST ENTER THE WHITE HOT
CENTRE OF THE MOLTEN MOON.

THE MISSION SUCCESSFUL, THE GRAVITON BEGAN TO SCOOP UP THE MOLTEN MOON.



THEIR SENSORS
CANNOT DETECT US HERE.

INSIDE THE GRAVITON'S STORAGE CHAMBER DROIDS ANALYSED THE MOLTEN MOON'S CONTENTS...

TWENTY PER CENT BASE
METALS... HIGH LEVEL
TITANIUM...

GRAVITON NOW FULL TO CAPACITY,
SETTING COURSE FOR EARTH.



SUDDENLY, RORTA'S CRAFT APPEARED FROM THE MOLTEN MASS—

**INTRUDER ALERT!
INTRUDER ALERT!**

**HAH! THE LAVA IS FULL OF NEUTRINOS,
I CAN FULLY RESTORE MYSELF!**

THE CREW WERE QUICK TO ATTACK THE ARCHEOSHIP, BUT IN VAIN...

**OUR FIREPOWER IS USELESS
AGAINST THAT SHIELD!**

**THE FOOLS DEFY ME! I WILL
SHOW THEM MY SUPERIORITY!**

RORTA GORGED HIMSELF ON THE NEUTRINOS.

MY BODY IS NOW CHARGED TO
FOUR TIMES ITS REQUIREMENT IN
ENERGY, AND LIKE A BOMB...

... I RELEASE IT!

AIEE! NO!

RORTA KILLED MOST OF THE CREW, BOARDING THE OBSERVATION SHELF TO FINISH THEM OFF.

I WILL DESTROY EVERY HUMAN ON THIS CRAFT! IT WILL BE MINE!

ONCE AGAIN HOOL BECAME RORTA'S PILOT ...

RORTA QUICKLY MADE HIS WAY TO THE CONTROL ROOM ...

SUCH A WEAK RACE DOESN'T DESERVE TO LIVE!

HE HAS THE POWER TO DESTROY ANYTHING!

WITH THE GRAVITON I WILL DESTROY THE PLACE OF ORIGIN OF YOUR KIND — PLANET EARTH!

MEANWHILE, STAR KNIGHT AND KURNIK WERE BEING RESCUED BY AN AIDROID...

SURVIVORS UNCONSCIOUS DUE TO
LIVE SUPPORT FAILURE...
ADMINISTERING TREATMENT PROCEDURE.

WE WERE JUST IN TIME.

BY THE TIME THE AIDROID HAD RETURNED TO ITS MOTHER RESCUE SHIP THE TWO MEN HAD
RECOVERED. THEY WERE GREETED BY COMMANDER WARD.

WELCOME BACK! WE'RE RETURNING TO
602 IMMEDIATELY. RORTA HAS
SUCCEEDED IN OBTAINING THE
GRAVITON.

WARD EXPLAINED HOW RORTA HAD TAKEN THE GRAVITON.

BEFORE HE DIED, JORDAN MANAGED TO SEND OUT A GARBLED REQUEST FOR HELP. I'VE ORDERED A FLATFIGHTER SQUADRON TO ATTACK THE GRAVITON.

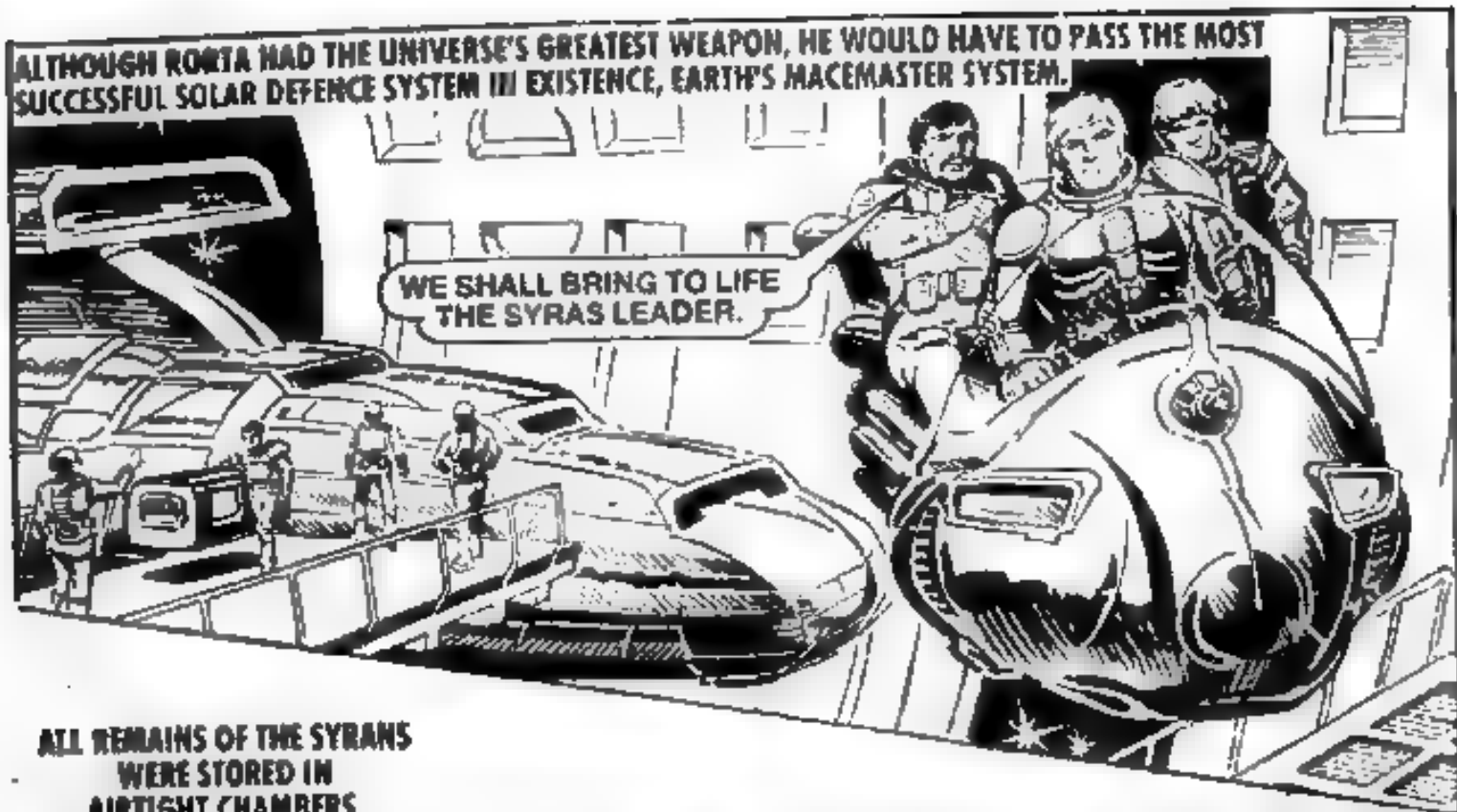
THEY WON'T DESTROY THE GRAVITON. WE HAVE TO FIND A WAY OF KILLING RORTA.

THE RESCUE SHIP SOON REACHED SUBSTATION 602.

WE HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF RORTA'S METHODS OF BATTLE. PERHAPS YOU COULD HELP US. KURNIK?

I KNOW HOW WE MIGHT LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT HIM.

ALTHOUGH RORTA HAD THE UNIVERSE'S GREATEST WEAPON, HE WOULD HAVE TO PASS THE MOST SUCCESSFUL SOLAR DEFENCE SYSTEM IN EXISTENCE, EARTH'S MACMASTER SYSTEM.



WE SHALL BRING TO LIFE THE SYRAS LEADER.


ALL REMAINS OF THE SYRAS WERE STORED IN AIRTIGHT CHAMBERS.

THE HIEROGLYPHS ON SYRAS DESCRIBE THE EXACT DIMENSIONS OF THE LEADER'S CAPSULE, IT'LL BE A HARD SEARCH.


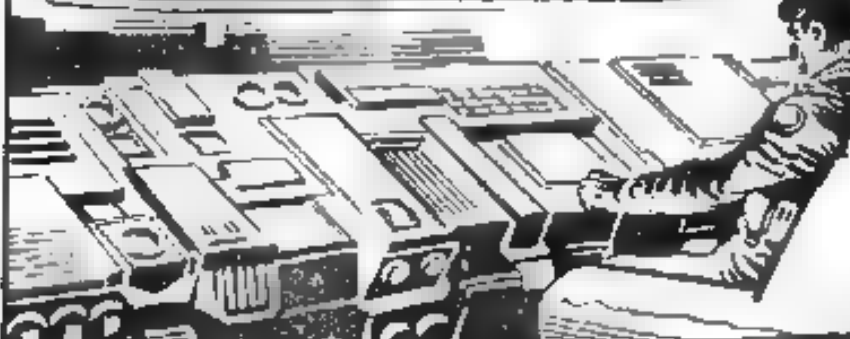
MY COMPUCALCULATOR WILL SPEED THINGS UP.



ONBOARD THE GRAVITON, RORTA STUDIED EARTH'S MACEMASTER DEFENCE SYSTEM.



MACEMASTER UNIT... ONE OF SEVENTY
DEFENDING SOLAR SYSTEM. ARMAMENT:
DENSITRAX TIPPED NU48 MISSILES,
DESTRUCTIVE POWER 100%.



IF I ATTACK DIRECTLY, THE
GRAVITON WILL BE DESTROYED BY
THE MACEMASTER SYSTEM. I MUST
CREATE A HOLE IN THEIR
DEFENCES BY DESTROYING ONE OF
THEIR UNITS!

THE GRAVITON'S SENSORS GAVE A WARNING...

SIX FLATFIGHTERS APPROACHING AT COMBAT
SPEED. EVASION PATTERN INITIATED.

THEY WILL HARDLY DELAY MY
PROGRESS.

THE FLATFIGHTERS BEGAN THEIR ATTACK...

OUR LASERS CAN'T GET THROUGH THE
GRAVITON'S DENSITRAX PLATING.

I SHALL DESTROY THEM
WITH THE GRAVITON!

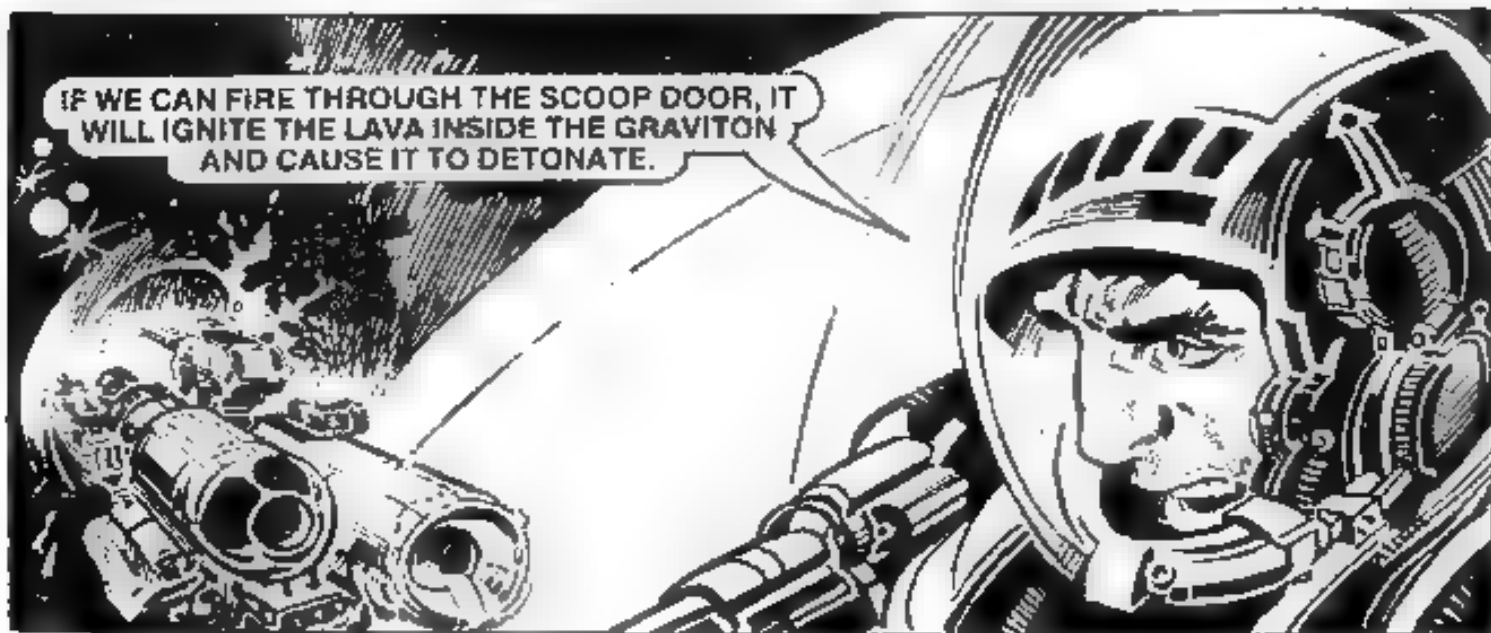
RORTA TURNED HIS CRAFT.



TWO OF THE FIGHTERS WEREN'T QUICK ENOUGH...



IF WE CAN FIRE THROUGH THE SCOOP DOOR, IT
WILL IGNITE THE LAVA INSIDE THE GRAVITON
AND CAUSE IT TO DETONATE.



ON THE BRIDGE, RORTA
WATCHED EVERY MOVE.

EMERGENCY
DISCHARGE!

THE SCOOP DOORS
OPENED AND THE LAVA
POURED OUT ...

LOOK OUT!



RORTA'S ORDER TO DISCHARGE THE LAVA CAUGHT THE FOUR FIGHTERS UNAWARE—

RATHER THAN DELAY ME, THE HUMANS
HAVE GIVEN ME MY CHANCE TO DESTROY
ONE OF THEIR MACEMASTER UNITS.



RORTA GAVE HOOL NEW ORDERS.

I WILL BE LEAVING THE GRAVITON FOR A WHILE.
YOU WILL TAKE IT TO THE FOLLOWING CO-
ORDINATES AND WAIT ...

I MUST OBEY. I MUST!



SOME TIME LATER, AN EARTH PATROL SHIP ARRIVED TO INVESTIGATE THE OUTCOME OF THE BATTLE.

SPECTOGRAPH SHOWS PRESENCE OF ALLOYS USED IN FLATFIGHTER CONSTRUCTION.

THE SQUADRON MUST HAVE BEEN DESTROYED. I'VE GOT A SIGNAL HERE ...

THE SIGNAL WAS A PERSONAL HOMING BEACON, A DISTRESS SIGNAL USED BY STRANDED SURVIVORS.

THAT'S THE SUIT OF A GRAVITON ENGINEER.

WE'LL BRING HIM IN WITH THE DOCKING ARM.

ONE ■ THE CREWMEN SUITED UP, OPENED THE AIRLOCK AND ATTACHED A TETHER TO THE DRIFTING BODY.

IT'S A MIRACLE
HE'S ALIVE!



BUT AS THE "BODY" WAS REELED INTO THE AIRLOCK—

DIE, HUMAN! UNLIKE YOU, I
DON'T NEED AIR AND CAN SURVIVE
IN SPACE FOR LONG PERIODS.



THE SECOND CREWMAN STOOD NO CHANCE.

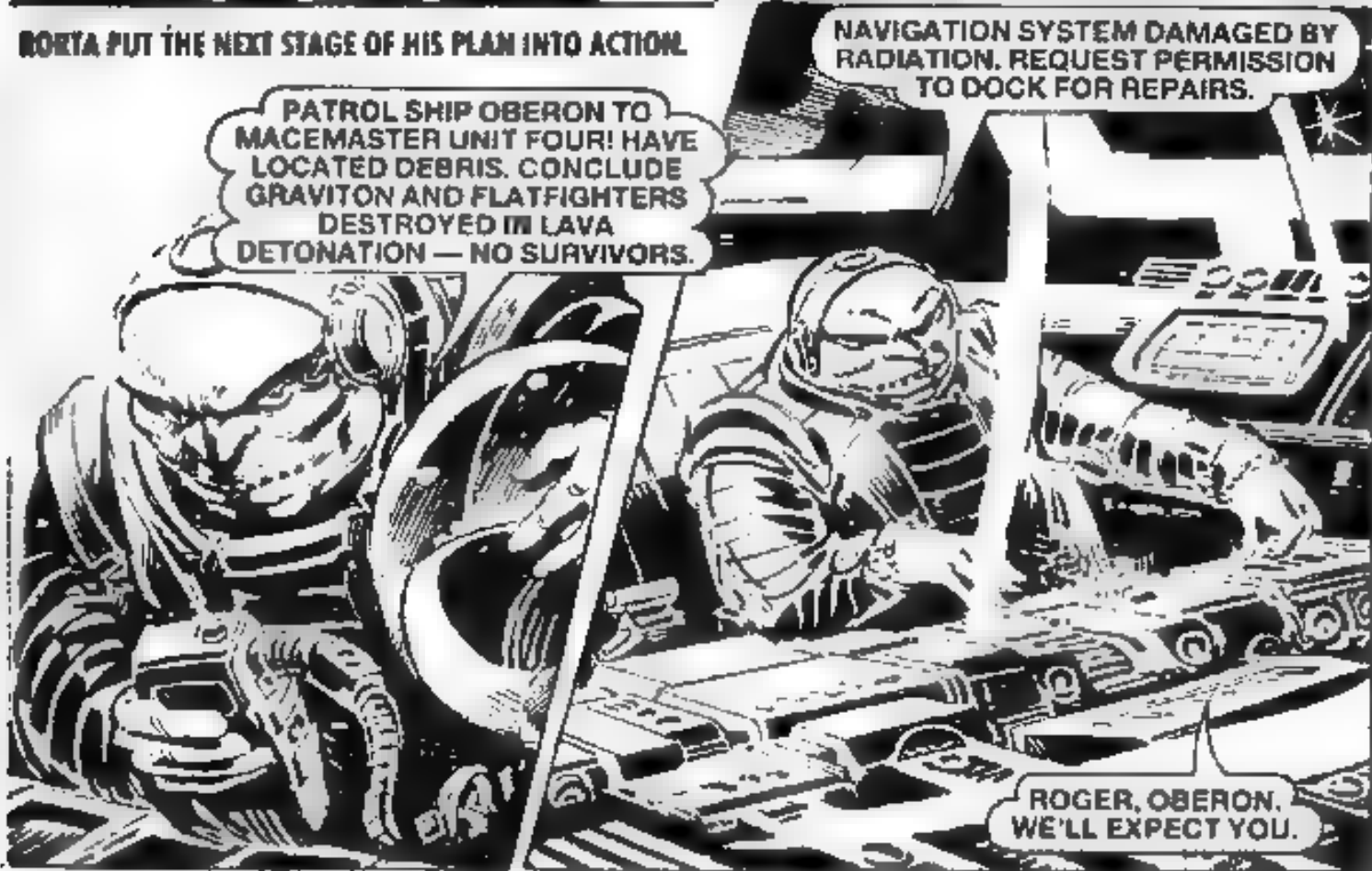
MY NEUTRON BOLTS REQUIRE MUCH POWER. I MUST
USE HUMAN WEAPONRY AND CONSERVE MY ENERGY
FROM NOW ON.



BORTA PUT THE NEXT STAGE OF HIS PLAN INTO ACTION.

PATROL SHIP OBERON TO
MACEMASTER UNIT FOUR! HAVE
LOCATED DEBRIS. CONCLUDE
GRAVITON AND FLATFIGHTERS
DESTROYED IN LAVA
DETONATION — NO SURVIVORS.

NAVIGATION SYSTEM DAMAGED BY
RADIATION. REQUEST PERMISSION
TO DOCK FOR REPAIRS.



ROGER, OBERON.
WE'LL EXPECT YOU.

RORTA HEADED TOWARDS THE
MACMASTER UNIT.

I WILL WREAK HAVOC ON
THEIR UNIT, AND CREATE A
HOLE THROUGH WHICH THE
GRAVITON WILL FLY!

RORTA ARRIVED AT MACMASTER UNIT
FOUR SHORTLY AFTERWARDS...

MACMASTER TO OBERON! WE
DETECT ONLY ONE LIFE FORM
ABOARD YOUR SHIP. WHERE IS
YOUR SECOND CREW MEMBER?

THEY ARE SUSPICIOUS!
I MUST REACT
QUICKLY.

RORTA USED THE CRAFT'S BOOSTERS.

OUT OF MY WAY!

I MUST REACH THE
MACEMASTER COMPUTER.

AIR LOSS ■ CORRIDOR FOUR!
AIDROIDS TO HANGAR! SECURITY
TEAMS LOCATE INTRUDER.

SECURITY TO HANGAR!

A SECURITY TEAM CAUGHT UP WITH RORTA.

YOU, HALT!

YOUR RELUCTANCE TO KILL
ME COSTS YOU YOUR LIVES!

616

RORTA FIRED A CARBOGRENADE WHICH REDUCED ALL LIFE FORMS TO BASIC CARBON.

ACCORDING TO THE PLAN I
STUDIED ON THE GRAVITON THE
MACEMASTER CONTROL SYSTEM IS
NEAR HERE.



RORTA FOUGHT HIS WAY TO THE MISSILE CONTROL ROOM.

I MUST HURRY BEFORE
MORE HUMANS ARRIVE.



RORTA PREPARED TO RELEASE A VAST AMOUNT OF ENERGY.

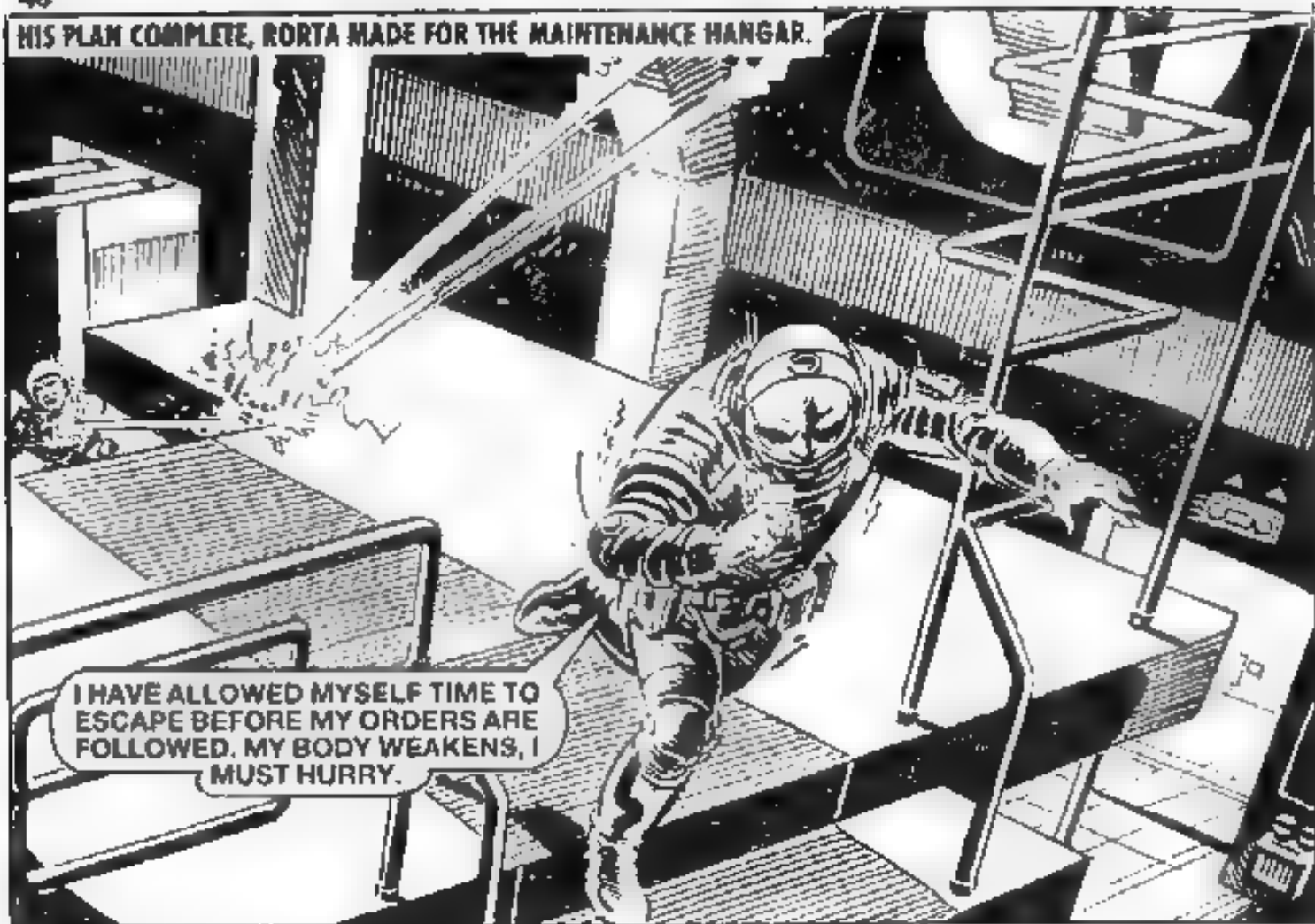
**I WILL USE MY POWER
TO BURN MY
COMMANDS INTO THE
CIRCUITS OF THESE
COMPUTERS.**

USING MOST OF HIS POWER, RORTA WAS ABLE TO OVER-RIDE ALL PREVIOUS PROGRAMMES.

**COMPUTER ONE! YOU
WILL LAUNCH AN
ATTACK AGAINST THE
OTHER FIVE MISSILE
GLOBES.**

AFFIRMATIVE.

HIS PLAN COMPLETE, RORTA MADE FOR THE MAINTENANCE HANGAR.

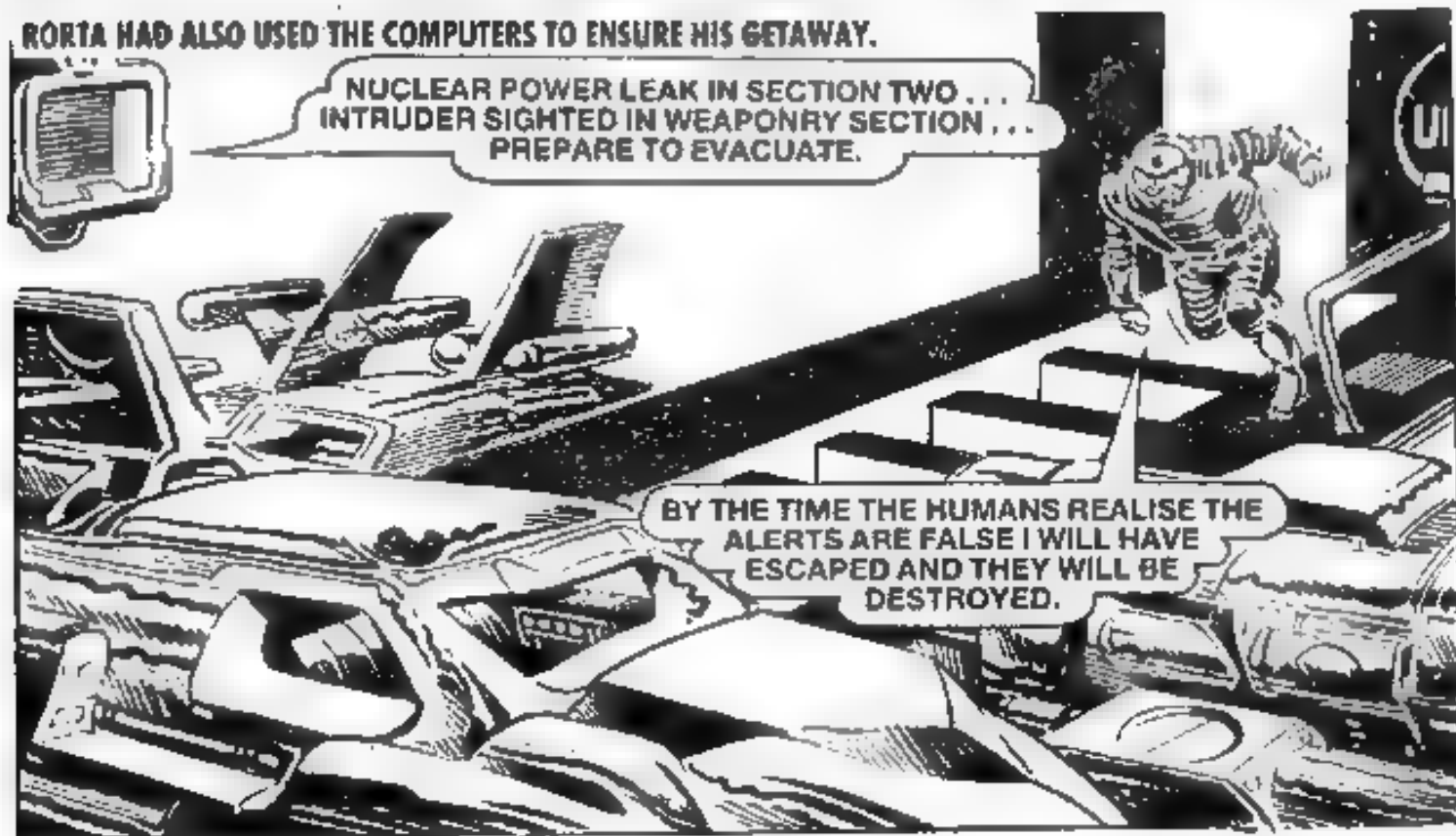


I HAVE ALLOWED MYSELF TIME TO
ESCAPE BEFORE MY ORDERS ARE
FOLLOWED. MY BODY WEAKENS, I
MUST HURRY.

RORTA HAD ALSO USED THE COMPUTERS TO ENSURE HIS GETAWAY.



NUCLEAR POWER LEAK IN SECTION TWO ...
INTRUDER SIGHTED IN WEAPONRY SECTION ...
PREPARE TO EVACUATE.



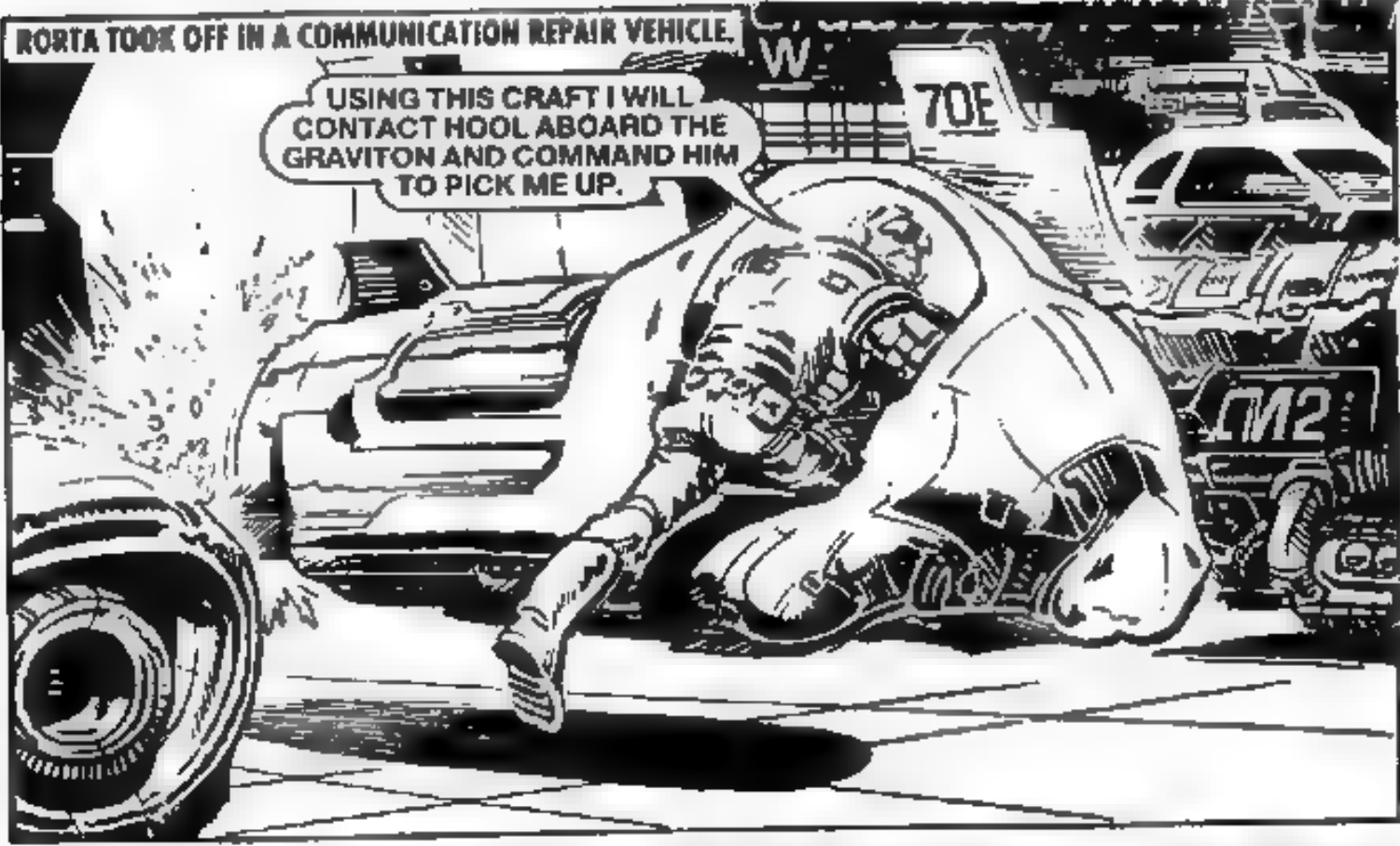
BY THE TIME THE HUMANS REALISE THE
ALERTS ARE FALSE I WILL HAVE
ESCAPED AND THEY WILL BE
DESTROYED.

RORTA TOOK OFF IN A COMMUNICATION REPAIR VEHICLE.

W

70E

USING THIS CRAFT I WILL
CONTACT HOOL ABOARD THE
GRAVITON AND COMMAND HIM
TO PICK ME UP.

A black and white comic book panel showing a character named Rorta, wearing a flight suit and goggles, crouched in the driver's seat of a futuristic communication repair vehicle. The vehicle has a large wheel on the left and a sign with '70E' on the side. In the background, another vehicle with 'M2' is visible. A speech bubble from Rorta says, 'USING THIS CRAFT I WILL CONTACT HOOL ABOARD THE GRAVITON AND COMMAND HIM TO PICK ME UP.'

AS RORTA LEFT...

THE EXPLOSIONS
WERE PERFECTLY TIMED.

A black and white comic book panel showing a series of large, spherical explosions or bombs in space. The bombs are arranged in a line, with the one in the foreground being the largest and most detailed. A speech bubble from an unseen character says, 'THE EXPLOSIONS WERE PERFECTLY TIMED.'

THE MACEMASTER DESTROYED ITSELF ...

HOOL! BRING THE GRAVITON TO
ME! THE EARTH IS MINE!



OUT OF THE DEPTHS OF SPACE CAME THE
GRAVITON PILOTED BY THE MESMERIZED
HOOL.

OPEN THE ENTRY HATCH!

WITH RORTA ABOARD, THE GRAVITON HEADED
TOWARDS EARTH.

MY POWER IS WEAK NOW, BUT WITH
THE DESTRUCTION OF EARTH WILL
COME NEW LAVA AND NEW NEUTRINOS
TO FILL ME!



BACK ON SUBSTATION 602, KURNIK HAD USED A NEUTRINO INDUCER TO BRING TORQUE, LEADER OF THE SYRANS, OUT OF HIS PRESERVATION CAPSULE.

AS YOU SEE, WE'RE
DESPERATE FOR YOUR HELP.

RORTA THREATENS ALL LIFE
FORMS. I SHALL HELP YOU.

AT THAT MOMENT COMMANDER WARD CAME ON THE LAB'S VIDSCREEN.

MACEMASTER UNIT FOUR HAS BEEN
DESTROYED. RORTA'S EARTHBOUND
IN THE GRAVITON.

A PLAN FORMED IN STAR KNIGHT'S MIND.

KURNIK, IS THE
MAGNACRAFT OPERATIONAL?

YES, BUT IT HASN'T
BEEN TESTED YET.

LEAVING HORDROID BEHIND, STAR KNIGHT DECIDED TO USE THE MAGNACRAFT, A
SHIP WHICH USED THE MAGNETIC FIELDS OF THE UNIVERSE TO PROPEL IT.

WE CAN DESTROY THE GRAVITON WITH THE
MAGNACRAFT, BUT WE MUST TRY TO RESCUE
HOOL.

I WILL HELP YOU!



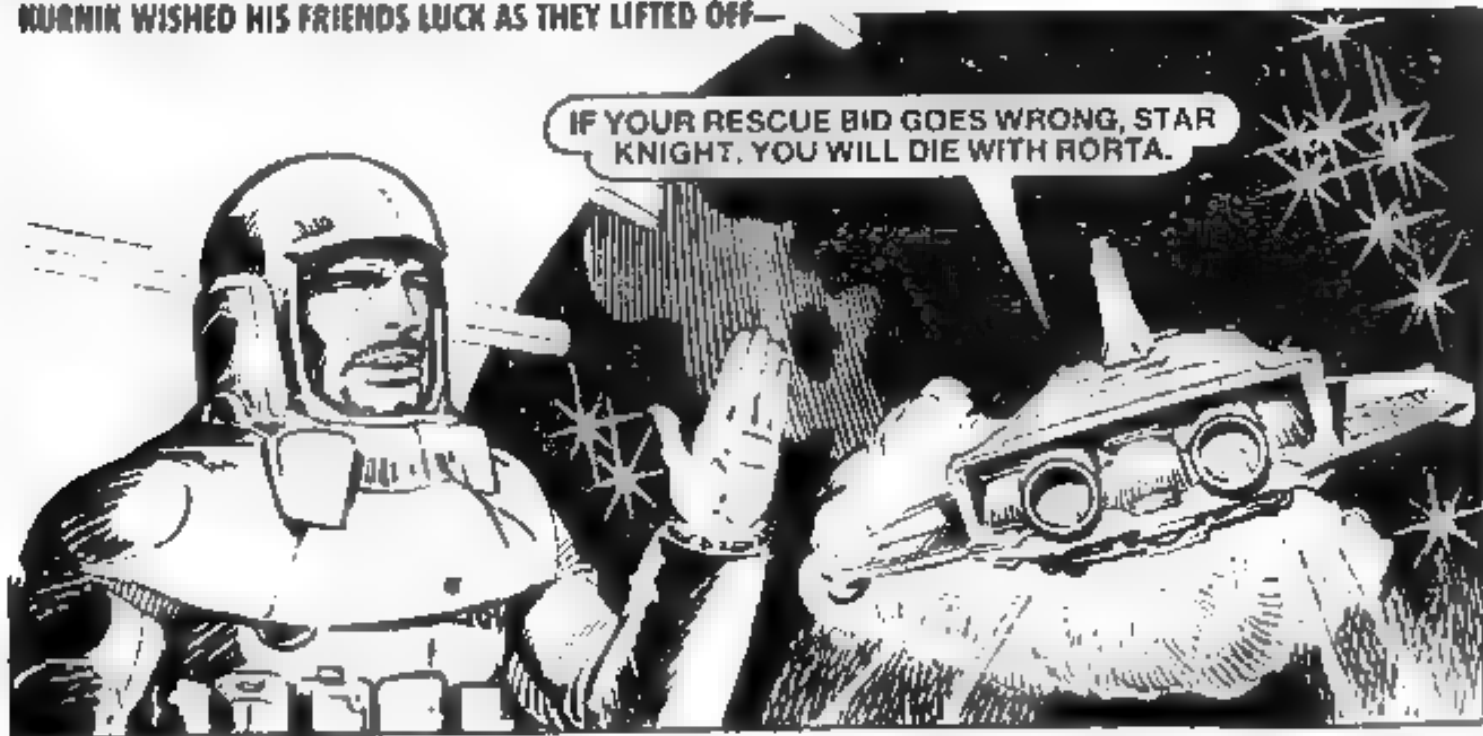
STAR KNIGHT ACCEPTED TORQUE'S OFFER OF HELP.

YOUR PERSONAL ORNOCRAFT
IS ABOARD, TORQUE.

A black and white comic book panel. On the left, Star Knight, wearing a helmet and a suit with a large chest plate, stands with his back to the viewer. He is looking towards Torque, who is on the right. Torque is a man with a beard and a mustache, wearing a flight suit. He is standing next to a large, futuristic aircraft, the Ornocraft. The aircraft has a cockpit with a large visor and various mechanical details. The background shows the interior of a hangar with structural beams and a large opening in the ceiling.

TORNIK WISHED HIS FRIENDS LUCK AS THEY LIFTED OFF—

IF YOUR RESCUE BID GOES WRONG, STAR
KNIGHT, YOU WILL DIE WITH RORTA.

A black and white comic book panel. On the left, Star Knight is shown from the chest up, wearing his helmet and suit. He has a serious expression. On the right, Torque is shown from the chest up, wearing a flight suit. He is looking at Star Knight with a determined expression. The background is dark with some light effects, suggesting a hangar or a similar indoor setting.

THOUGH POWERFUL, THE GRAVITON WAS SLOW, AND THE MAGNACRAFT SOON CAUGHT UP.

YOU'LL WITNESS THE DEATH
OF YOUR PLANET, HUMAN!

SURRENDER, RORTA!

TORQUE LEFT THE MAGNACRAFT IN HIS PERSONAL SHIP.

GOOD LUCK,
STAR KNIGHT.

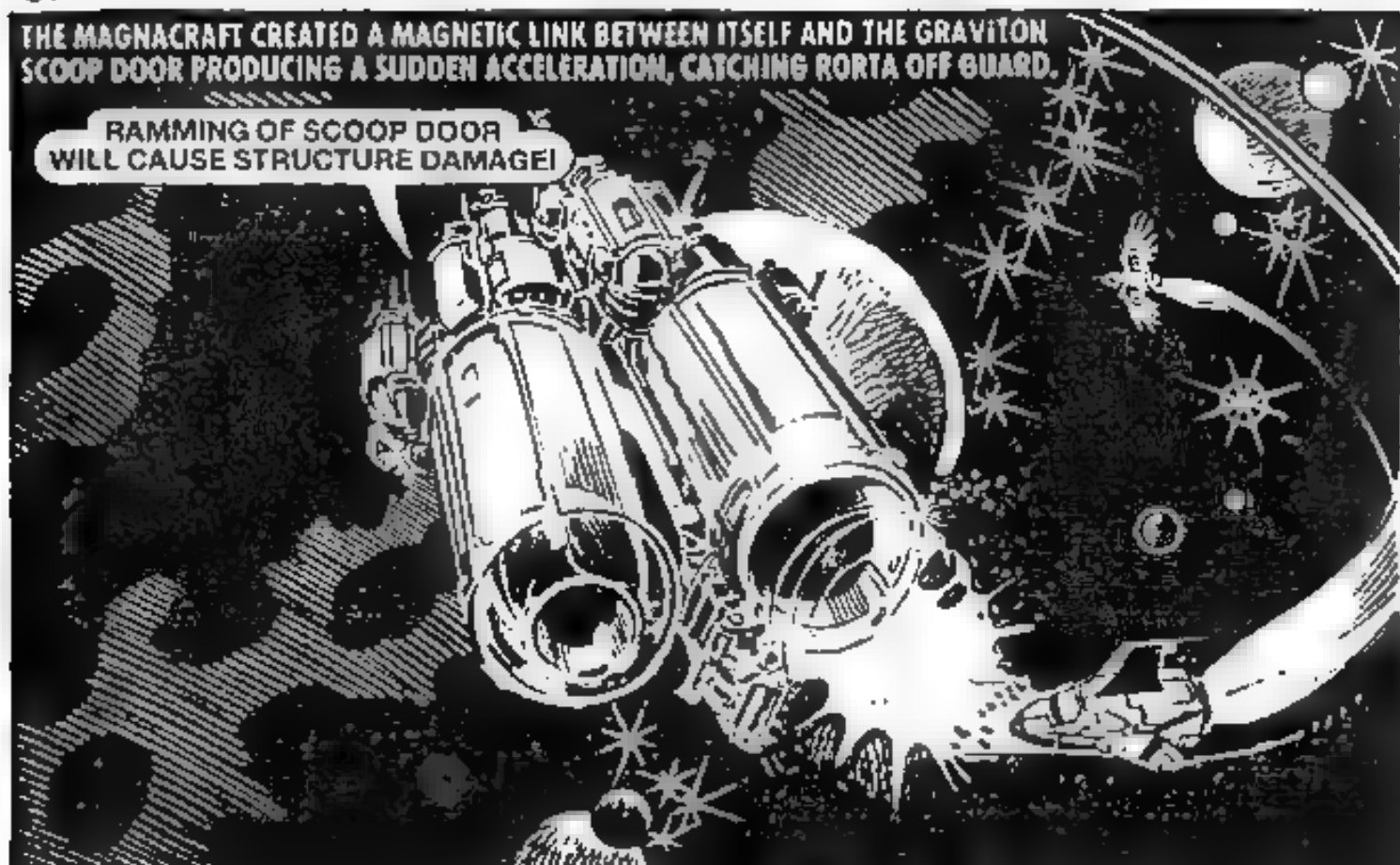
SEE YOU SOON, TORQUE.

STAR KNIGHT SWUNG THE MAGNACRAFT AT MAXIMUM SPEED.
FIRST I HAVE TO GET INTO THE
GRAVITON. COMPUTER, POSITIVE
ATTRACTION TO GRAVITON SCOOP
DOOR.

AFFIRMATIVE.

THE MAGNACRAFT CREATED A MAGNETIC LINK BETWEEN ITSELF AND THE GRAVITON SCOOP DOOR PRODUCING A SUDDEN ACCELERATION, CATCHING RORTA OFF GUARD.

RAMMING OF SCOOP DOOR
WILL CAUSE STRUCTURE DAMAGE!



THE SCOOP DOOR WAS SMASHED—

ALL SENSORS FAILING... CIRCUITS
SHORTING... I AM CEASING TO
FUNCTION... FUNCTION...



COMING TO REST, STAR KNIGHT USED
THE MAGNACRAFT IN THE SECOND
PART OF HIS PLAN.

STAR KNIGHT SET THE CHARGE—

NOW FOR THE HARDEST PART—
GETTING PAST RORTA!

THE GRAVITON GIVES OFF A
POSITIVE CHARGE, SO IF I
TURN THIS CRAFT'S
MAGNETIC FORCE TO
POSITIVE... LIKE POLES
REPEL AND THE CRAFT
WILL FORCE EACH OTHER
APART.

SUDDENLY ...

A black and white comic book panel showing a large, muscular droid (Star Knight) in the foreground, lunging forward. In the background, two smaller droids are visible in a circular arena. The scene is dynamic, with motion lines and debris.

ROCK-BREAKING DROIDS — THEY'RE
LOOKING FOR A HUMAN MEAL!

BORTA HAD PROGRAMMED THE DROIDS TO KILL STAR KNIGHT.

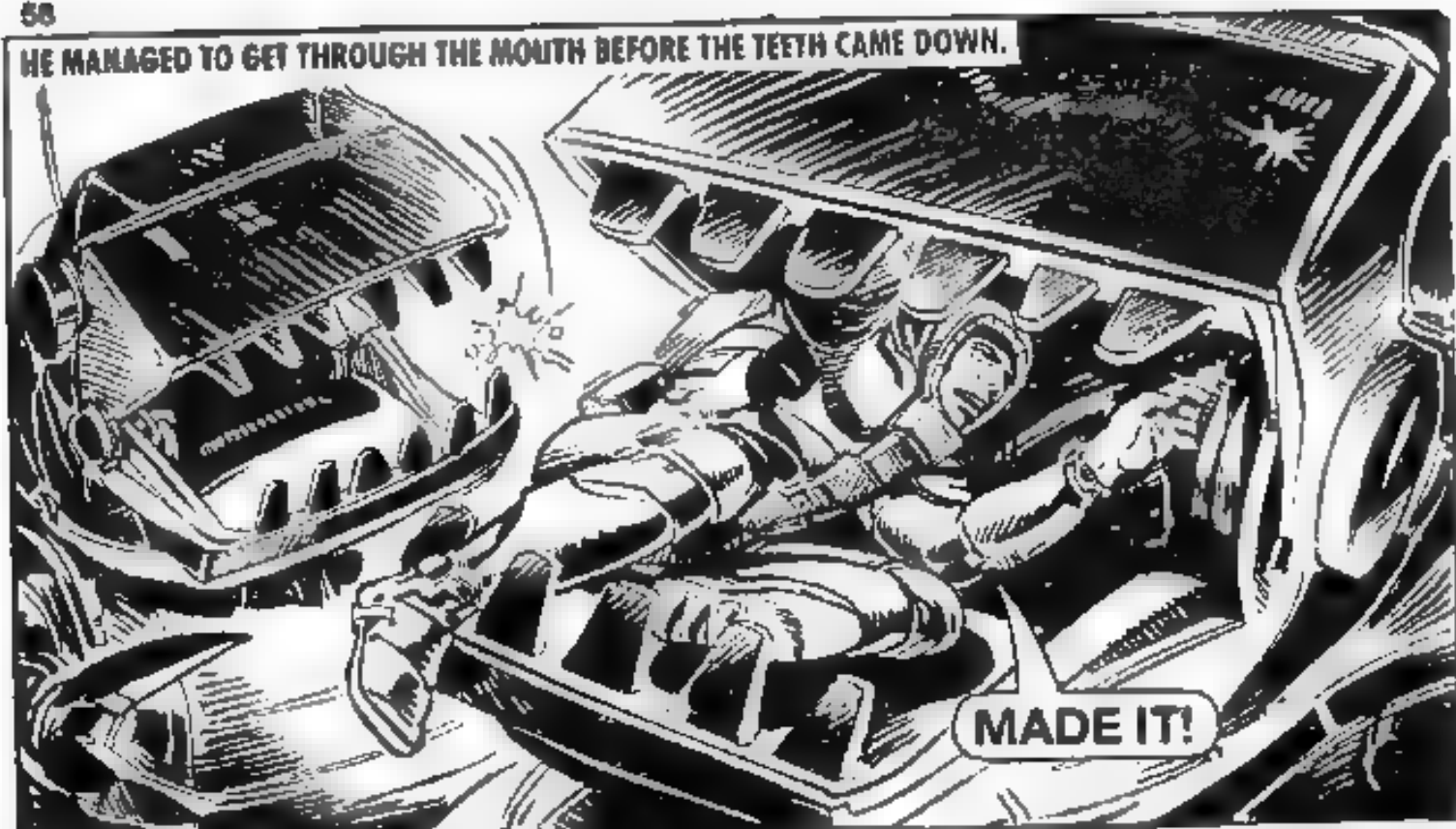
A close-up of Borta's face, a large, metallic, and somewhat grotesque droid head with a wide, toothy mouth and a single large eye. He is looking down at the arena.

ONE DROID ALONE WOULD KILL YOU,
STAR KNIGHT. I'VE SENT TWO TO MAKE IT
ABSOLUTE!





HE MANAGED TO GET THROUGH THE MOUTH BEFORE THE TEETH CAME DOWN.



SENSING THAT STAR KNIGHT WAS INSIDE THE OTHER DROID, THE SECOND DROID DECIDED TO ATTACK IT.



LOCKING IN BATTLE, THE DROIDS BEGAN TO RIP EACH OTHER APART.



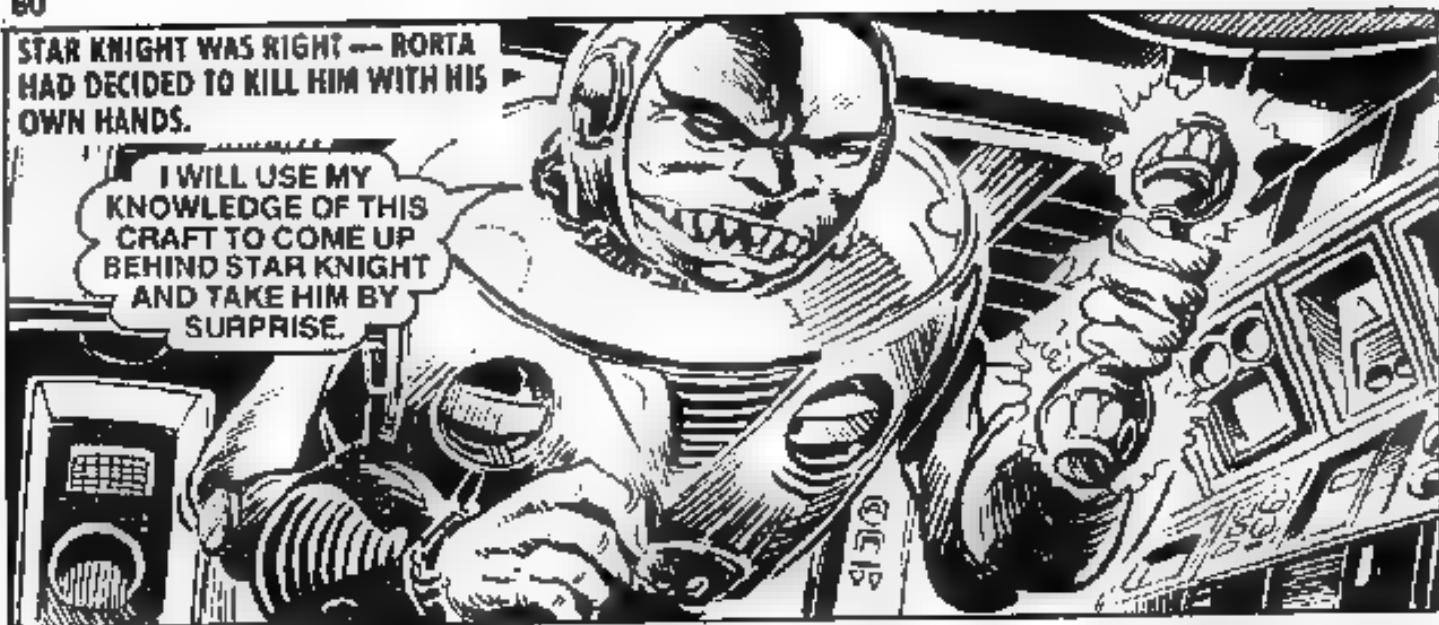
THE SAVAGE FRENZY ENDED IN MOMENTS.



RORTA WILL BE MORE THOROUGH IN
HIS NEXT ATTACK. I MUST BE READY.

STAR KNIGHT WAS RIGHT — RORTA HAD DECIDED TO KILL HIM WITH HIS OWN HANDS.

I WILL USE MY KNOWLEDGE OF THIS CRAFT TO COME UP BEHIND STAR KNIGHT AND TAKE HIM BY SURPRISE.



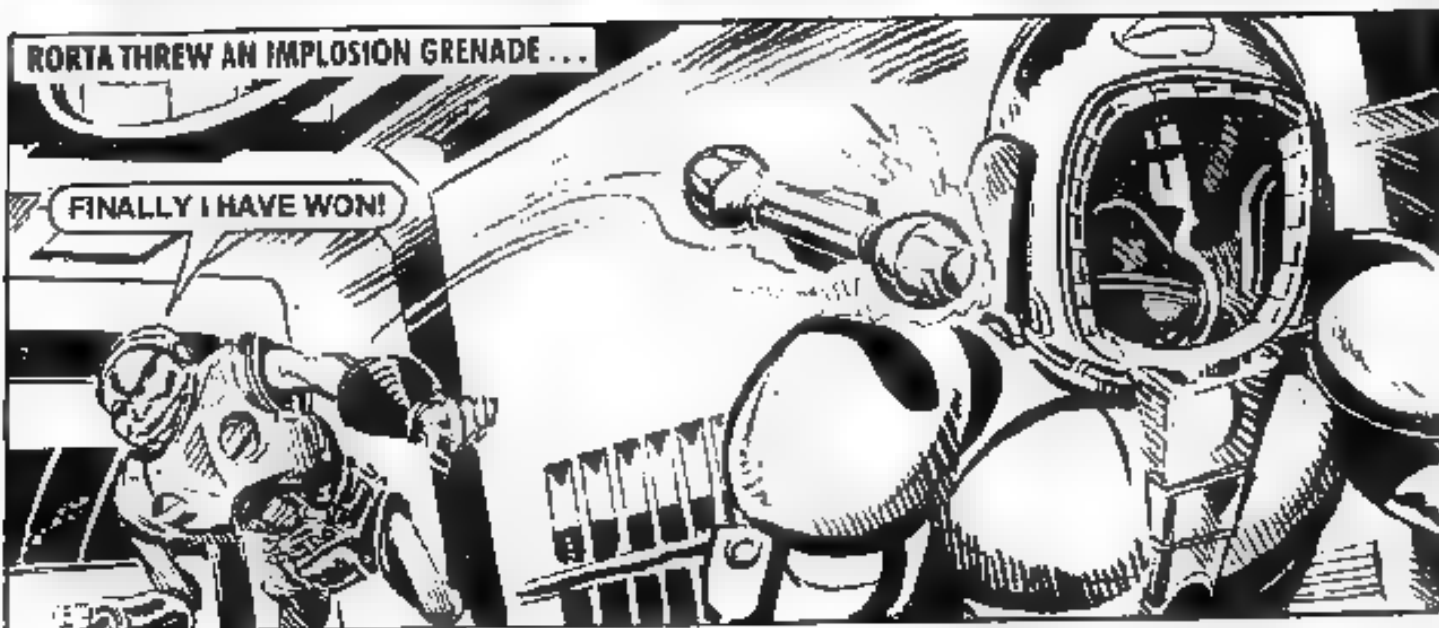
RORTA CREEPT ROUND THE CRAFT UNTIL ...

DIE, HUMAN!



RORTA THREW AN IMPLOSION GRENADE ...

FINALLY I HAVE WON!





SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU, FRIEND ...

WH... WHAT?

STAR KNIGHT HAD INFLATED A SURVIVAL SUIT AND THEN WAITED FOR RORTA TO FALL INTO HIS TRAP.

HERE RORTA, HAVE SOME ABSOPODS!



HUH?

ABSOPODS — ABSORPTION PODS — WERE THE STRANGEST OF STAR KNIGHT'S WEAPONS AND SUCKED THE ENERGY FROM ANYTHING THEY TOUCHED.



STAR KNIGHT MADE FOR THE CONTROL ROOM.



RORTA'S CONTROL OVER HOOL WAS FADING.

HOOL, CAN YOU THINK
FOR YOURSELF?

YES... WHAT DO YOU
WANT ME TO DO?

RORTA DIDN'T INTEND TO LET THEM ESCAPE.

I HAVE THE ENERGY FOR ONE LAST
NEUTRON BOLT — YOU WILL DIE WITH ME!

NOW TORQUE, NOW!

USING THE ORNOCRAFT'S BEAK, TORQUE RIPPED THROUGH THE GRAVITON'S PLATING. THE OUTRUSH OF AIR SENT THE TWO MEN SPACESIDE AND STUNNED RORTA.

GET US AWAY FROM
HERE, TORQUE!

RORTA USED THE LAST OF HIS
ENERGY TO REACH THE
GRAVITON'S FIRING BUTTON.

WITHIN TARGET RANGE,
FIRE WHEN READY.

I'M FINISHED, STAR KNIGHT,
BUT SO IS EARTH!

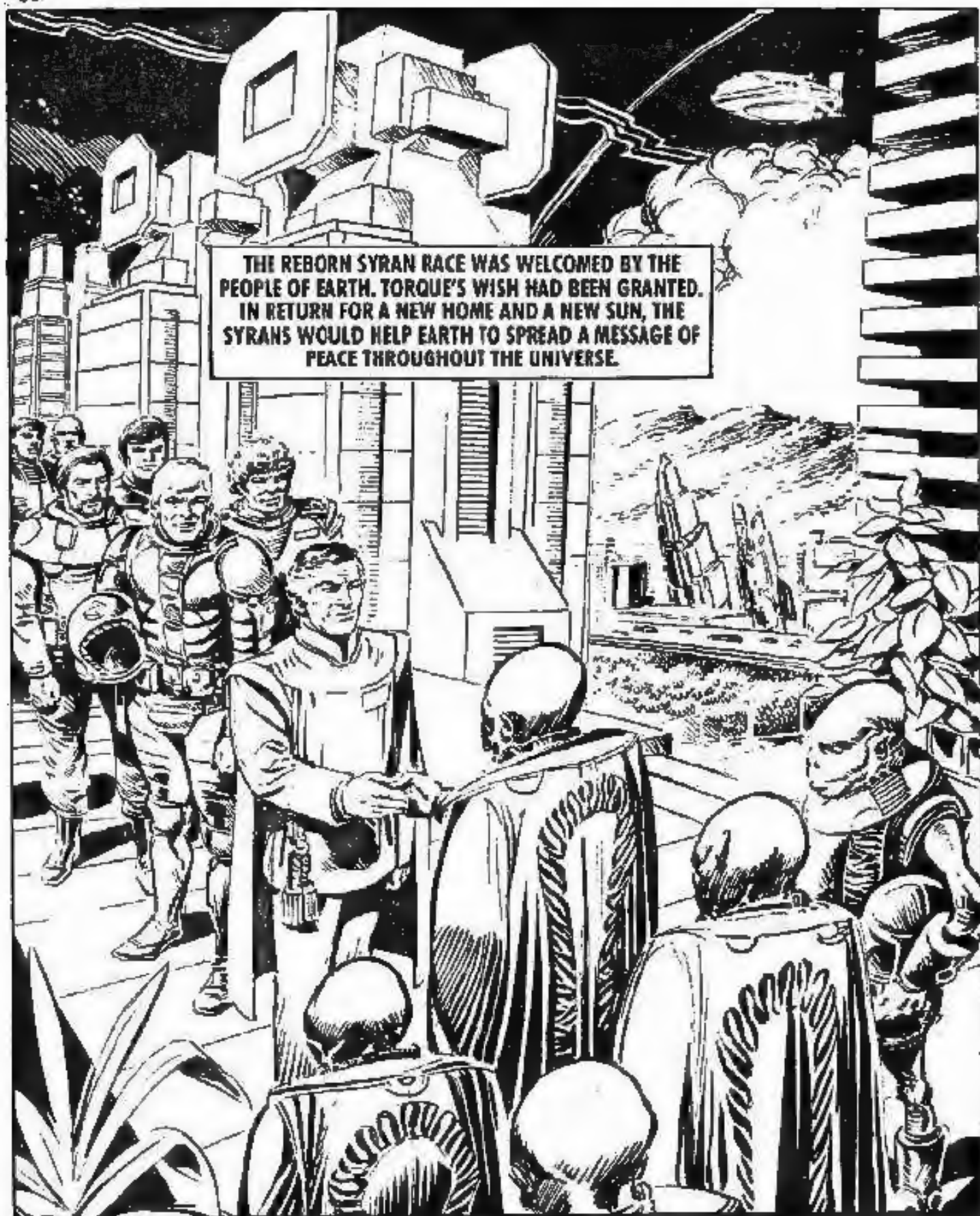
RORTA'S HAND DIDN'T REACH THE FIRING BUTTON, BECAUSE
STAR KNIGHT ACTIVATED THE CHARGES HE'D SET EARLIER.

IT'S OVER!

AAGH!

PICK US UP, TORQUE.





THE REBORN SYRAN RACE WAS WELCOMED BY THE PEOPLE OF EARTH. TORQUE'S WISH HAD BEEN GRANTED. IN RETURN FOR A NEW HOME AND A NEW SUN, THE SYRANS WOULD HELP EARTH TO SPREAD A MESSAGE OF PEACE THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSE.

eldubya/todinapries

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